

Appl. No. : 09/991,532
Filed : November 15, 2001

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 3-22, 29-38, and 47-56 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 17, 18, 21, 29, and 47 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 26-28, 39-41, and 44-46 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 23-25, 42-43, and 57-64 were canceled previously.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the pending Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 26-28, 39-41, and 44-46 were rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0169722 to Petrus et al, in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,599 to Uhlik. Applicants traverses the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 26-28, 39-41, and 44-46, preserving the right to continue prosecution of the rejected claims in a continuation application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thanks the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in Claims 3-22, 29-38, and 47-56. Applicants have amended Claims 3, 17, 18, 21, 29, and 47 to rewrite these claims in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 3, 17, 18, 21, 29, and 47 are in condition for allowance. In addition, Claims 4-16, 19-20, 22, 30-38, and 48-56 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claims 3, 18, 21, 29, and 47 respectively, and are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The Applicants have endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the pending Office Action. In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is requested, and a notice of allowance is solicited. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the allowance of the pending claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned.

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2075.

Respectfully submitted,

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